

Roland Bartl

From: Frank Ramsbottom
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2009 8:30 AM
To: Roland Bartl; Robert Craig
Cc: Steve Ledoux
Subject: RE: Lexan

Bob;

That's interesting about the burning characteristics of the lexan and Plexiglas. It had been indicated to me by the BBRS that these products were not appropriate substitutions for plywood in an ordered board up situation by the town of Acton. However in the case of voluntary board up I would not have jurisdiction. From what you say though it appears that there may be some exceptions, for example if there is an exterior fire rated wall these products would not be appropriate.

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From: Roland Bartl
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2009 4:37 PM
To: Robert Craig; John Murray
Cc: Steve Ledoux; Frank Ramsbottom
Subject: RE: Lexan

Thank you, Bob!

John!

In light of this do you have an alternative suggestion? Somebody suggested - tongue and cheek - to require art on the plywood.

The matter will obviously go to a public hearing since the Planning Board decided to put it on. But I wonder now about the viability of this proposal, even with the changes you had suggested that are not yet incorporated in the draft article included below.

As for the building code, it is my understanding that if a building is boarded up for public safety reasons under the provision of the building code then plywood and 2x4's are the prescribed materials.

Any thoughts?

Roland Bartl, AICP
Planning Director

1/29/2009

472 Main Street
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(978) 630-1727

From: Robert Craig
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2009 4:20 PM
To: Roland Bartl
Subject: RE: Lexan

Roland- I checked with the Fire Protection Engineers at the Department of Fire Services. As I suspected, Lexan is so tough to break through, get through or cut through it may present ingress/ egress problems for fire personnel should a fire occur in a structure with windows covered by Lexan. Plexiglass is very brittle in the cold and could be broken with a rock. In general, both Lexan and Plexiglas ignite at higher temperatures than plywood, but once ignited burn hotter and more vigorously than plywood. Therefore, even though the appearance factor would be addressed, the use of Lexan or Plywood may well present some other very serious situations. The indication was also that this suggested use of Lexan or Plexiglas may pose a potential conflict with the building code.

Bob

From: Roland Bartl
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2009 3:17 PM
To: Robert Craig
Subject: FW: Lexan

Bob:

Have you had a chance to look into this?

Roland Bartl, AICP
Planning Director
472 Main Street
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From: Roland Bartl
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2009 3:56 PM
To: Robert Craig
Cc: John Murray
Subject: FW: Lexan

Bob:

The Planning Board is considering proposing the following zoning change:

Insert a new sub-section 8.10 as follows:

8.10 **Boarding Up of Vacant Buildings** - Except where otherwise required under the Massachusetts Building Code, a vacant building whose windows and doors are to be "boarded up" against illegal entry, vandalism, or loitering shall be "boarded up" with Plexiglas, Lexan, or equivalent transparent material in a manner that minimizes the appearance of a vacant building.

1/29/2009

SUMMARY

The boarding up of vacant buildings is generally intended to protect the buildings and any assts within them. Some owners with vacant buildings board them board up on their own, others do it because their insurance requires it. During this economic downturn Acton has so far experienced relatively few instances of vacated and boarded up buildings. Where it happened, the boarding up with traditional plywood widely signaled a vacant building. This created a potential attractive nuisance, and sent a message of decline, neglect, and blight. This addition to the zoning bylaw requires less obvious materials for boarding up buildings such as Plexiglas or Lexan.

Some at the Planning Board meeting last night suggested that Plexiglas is highly flammable and not a good choice. Can you look into this as it might compare to plywood. Does it matter? How does Lexan rate? It is much more expensive. Please advise in the next few days. Thanks -

Planning Director
472 Main Street
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From: John Murray
Sent: Wednesday, January 07, 2009 3:39 PM
To: Roland Bartl
Subject: Lexan

Lexan and Plexiglas come in colors

Lexan® sheet (type Lexan 9034 standard): In thicknesses of .125", Lexan® 9034 sheet will transmit 86% of the light. Lexan® Sheet (Lexan 9034) is UV stabilized, has a heat deflection temperature of 270 degrees F at 264 PSI, and has a smoke density rating less than 75. Lexan® 9034 is engineered for window glazing as well as for sign applications. In addition to colorless (clear), Lexan® 9034 is available in solar gray and bronze in thicknesses from .080" to .500". Lexan® 9034 uncoated polycarbonate sheet is the standard grade of Lexan® sheet for general purpose applications. High-impact Lexan® 9034 can be used for economical protection against breakage or intrusion. A better insulator than glass, it contributes to lower energy costs.

I suggest we specify "clear High-impact Lexan® 9034 or the equivalent"